GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4843
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
INDO-PAK TALKS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Government has urged Pakistan to rein in the militants fighting in Kashmir and to create a suitable congenial atmosphere for a dialogue with India to solve the Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the details of the big powers including EU and Asian nations who have so far endorsed this approach of France?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Statements issued by the French Government, in a national capacity as well as on behalf of the European Union, of which France currently holds the Presidency, have condemned terrorist attacks and called for the termination of the terrorist activities in Kashmir, the implementation of confidence and security-building measures and strict respect for the Line of Control in order to restore a peaceful local climate and enable the dialogue between Pakistan and India to resume in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration.`In the context of Government`s cease-fire offer, the French Presidency of the EU issued a statement on 8 December 2000 welcoming the cease-fire.It adds that `the EU remains convinced that if such a peaceful solution is to be achieved, a stop must be put to terrorist acts, the Line of Control must be strictly observed and confidence-building and security measures must be implemented in order for dialogue to resume in keeping with the Lahore spirit.`

(b) The international community is increasingly expressing concern at Pakistan`s state sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir. This concern is reflected in the international media coverage on Pakistan, and in the statements by official spokesmen of several governments, including the European Union. There is greater acceptance of Government of India`s view that Pakistan must abandon its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and violence, respect the sanctity of the Line of Control and end its calls for Jehad, in order to create an appropriate environment for the resumption of dialogue.